

MORE NEW MEMBERS JOIN OPC

Here is the update on our newest members:

Active non-resident: **Karen Lee Ziner**, *The Providence Journal*, reporter.

Don Wright, *The Palm Beach Post* (Chicago) Tribune Media Services Syndicate, political cartoonist.

Associate member: **Deborah S. Smoot**, *Guideposts* magazine, *Reader's Digest*, writer.

Associate non-resident:

M.J.M. Farrar, Le Figaro Newspaper Group, international advertising director.

Associate: **Ira Salom**, physician.

A BOOK REVIEW

A new book by a veteran foreign correspondent is aimed at the general public but has particular interest for journalistic professionals.

The Birth of Freedom by Andrew

Nagorski has the subtitle, "Shaping Lives and Societies in the New Eastern Europe" (Simon & Schuster, 319 pp., \$23).

Nagorski, who has won two OPC awards, currently is the Warsaw bureau chief for *Newsweek* and has previously served abroad in Hong Kong, Moscow, Rome and Bonn. His thesis is that Eastern Europe's transformation is one of the most significant events of recent years, and he presents it in a manner that is penetrating—both professionally and personally.

Nagorski gives convincing close-up portraits of the region's heroes and villains (sometimes they manage to be both simultaneously) and makes the readers understand the make-up of such individuals as Lech Walesa, Vaclav Havel and Wojciech Jaruzelski. Unlike many reporters, he even touches on the state of the arts in the countries he has reported from, and he does not shy away from such touchy subjects as the continuing role of anti-Semitism in certain areas.

While Nagorski doesn't cover the region completely—there's little about Romania, for instance—he leaves no doubt that what's happening in Eastern Europe is of prime importance today, and may become even more so in the years immediately ahead.

—Herbert Kupferberg

OBITUARIES

C.L. Sulzberger, a prize-winning foreign correspondent and foreign affairs columnist for *The New York Times*, died at his home in Paris on Sept. 20. He was 80.

Sulzberger, who wrote the "Foreign Affairs" column three times a week on the editorial page until 1970, continued to write it on the Op-Ed page until his retirement in 1978. He was banned from half a dozen countries for his reporting, and he won a Pulitzer Prize citation in 1951 that encompassed foreign affairs, military power, economics, diplomacy, industrial and agriculture production, and the ideas and personalities of leaders.

He was a nephew of Arthur Hays Sulzberger, the publisher of *The Times* from 1935 to 1961. He was also a first cousin of Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, the chairman of the Times Company.

Bert Okuley, 56, a UPI reporter during the Vietnam War, died in a Hong Kong hospital on Sept. 4, one day after suffering a stroke.

Starting wire service reporting with INS, Okuley joined UPI in 1960, working in Atlanta and on the New York foreign cable desk before assignment to Vietnam. Later, he managed UPI's Bangkok bureau and was an editor on UPI's Asia-Pacific news desk in Hong Kong.

After leaving UPI, Okuley continued reporting and writing for several organizations from Hong Kong. He was co-author of the book *Gamblers Guide to Macao* (Hong Kong: South China Morning Post, 1979) and a past president (1976-1977) of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong.

—Al Kaff

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Program...

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Roth said, "Border guards were letting us through. They were saying, 'Do you know Peter Arnett? Cappucinos on the house.' It was incredible!"

Despite CNN's popularity, Roth noted, "People watch an hour, and they feel they've done their good deed or their quotient of international news."

"I think the public has the opportunity to see international news if it wants to," he continued. "I agree the public is receding from it. The news media has to bring them to that water hole to look at this news. It's there."

However, it's only there two hours out of each day on CNN. Despite the technical advancements which have enabled reporters to shoot from remote areas, CNN-I, the international channel which reaches 70 million homes in more than 200 countries abroad, is not available in the United States. "In the past their report was tailored to the global audience," he said of the domestic anchors. Today, international news does not demand the same extensive coverage that it once did.

A cause of this problem, Muller suggested, is the "greater attention to what are sometimes misperceived to be the needs and the interests of readers." He added, "There is more pandering to readers taking place. There's just simply more concern about trying to figure out what we think people want to read and then giving them what we think they want to read, which to some extent is an abdication of the responsibility that the major media have traditionally felt in this country."

"Viewers and readers come to us for our judgment of what matters, and of what an informed citizenry should be interested in," he noted, "not for our judgment of what we think they want to read."

More than 150 people attended the luncheon, which was moderated by Bill Holstein, an OPC vice president and chairman of the program committee. Steve Rago of *The New York Times*, also a member of the program committee, was instrumental in organizing the event.

Moscow...

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either shot down or exploded on the tarmac at Sukhumi airport, the only real point of entry for journalists covering the civil war. And in late September, the war in Georgia took the life of Andrei Solovyev, a Russian freelance photographer, and of Alexandra Tuttle, a Paris-based American journalist who is a frequent contributor to *The Wall Street Journal*. Hopefully, Moscow's streets won't become a similar war zone.

Peter Galuszka, an OPC member, recently returned to Russia after a New York posting to become Business Week's bureau chief in Moscow.

• THE OPC CALENDAR •

Don't miss October's OPC program:

Pat Choate: No to NAFTA

When: Wednesday, October 13

Where: The Tudor, 304 East 42nd Street, NYC

Time: 5:30 PM

Cost: Free. Call for reservations: (212) 983-4655.

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
New York, NY 10017 USA

Pat Choate To Speak on NAFTA Oct. 13

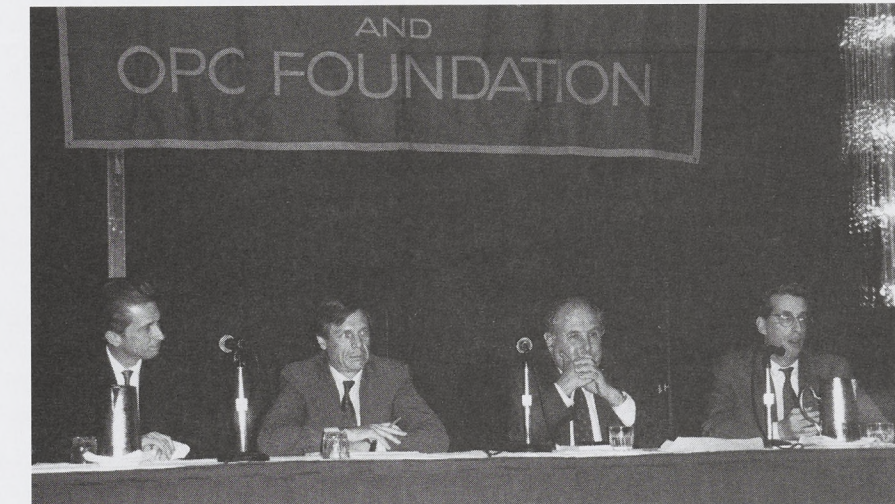
Pat Choate, one of the most controversial figures at the heart of the increasingly emotional and high-stakes debate about North American Free Trade, will argue that Americans must say, "No to NAFTA." Choate, the Washington economist who co-authored Ross Perot's book, "Save Your Job, Save Our Nation," also is the force behind the movement in the House of Representatives to stop NAFTA. Also invited to the debate are New York-based diplomats, economists and other foreign policy specialists.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA 304 EAST 42ND ST. NY, NY OCTOBER 1993

OPC Bulletin

"There is a crisis in the way the U.S. media cover the world," said Muller.

The Cold War is Over: Now What?



At the Sept. 22 OPC luncheon at the Grand Hyatt (l-r), program committee chairman Bill Holstein, Henry Muller of *Time*, Bernard Gwertzman of *The New York Times* and Richard Roth of CNN addressed how the U.S. covers the globe, calling it a "new ball game" because of the end of the Cold War.

BY CHRISTIE EMDEN

"Emphatically, there is a crisis in the way the U.S. media cover the world," said Henry Muller, editorial director of Time, Inc., who, with Bernard Gwertzman, foreign editor of *The New York Times*, and Richard Roth of CNN, addressed this issue at the opening luncheon of the Overseas Press Club on Sept. 22 at the Grand Hyatt in New York.

Noting that there are few exceptions, Muller maintained that newspapers and the networks "are really shockingly remiss in the way they cover the rest of the world," and that "we, at the news magazines, have some questions to ask ourselves as well."

The ending of the Cold War, which Muller called "a marvelous crutch," is one factor that sparked the decrease of global coverage by the U.S. Because our national survival and even the future existence of mankind was at

stake, according to Muller, it "created, for those of us in the press, a very easy definition of what we ought to be covering."

He also cited money (a foreign correspondent costs twice that of a domestic correspondent), and "the fundamental isolationism that has always characterized the way that Americans view the rest of the world," as causes for the decline.

Bernard Gwertzman, however, noted that *The Times'* circulation had continued to increase despite a drop in advertising and that, according to a market analyst, "the international report in *The Times* is a major factor in the reason people are buying the paper."

He did agree that the end of the Cold War created "a new ball game" for members of the media and, with the economic recession in the U.S., paired

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Moscow Mess Is No Picnic For Reporters

Oddly Surreal Scene

BY PETER GALUSZKA

A blustery wind is spitting a late September snow along the phalanxes of police and elite troops ringing the "White House" or Russia's Parliament Building in Moscow. It has been a week since Yeltsin dissolved the hard-line legislature. Journalists probe the cordons, usually without success, hoping to get closer to the tall building. If there's a shootout between troops loyal to Yeltsin and Parliament's machine-gun-armed supporters holed up inside, they want to see it. They could be the first shots of a civil war.

It's an oddly surreal scene—a kind of Alice-in-Wonderland setting where left is right and up is down. Just two years before, the exact same spot was where Yeltsin boldly quashed the coup, paving the way for democracy in

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Moscow...

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Russia. Now, supposedly to save democracy, there's concertina wire, dozens of water trucks making up barricades and several thousand troops, all in flak jackets and many with Kalashnikovs.

The protesters who supported Yeltsin two years ago were mostly young democrats. The ones backing the legislators these days tend to be retirees nostalgic for Stalin or neo-fascists. One man carries two incongruous flags—the red Soviet flag and the blue and white Czarist flag. Yet the average Muscovite, faced with constant price hikes for food and clothes, could care less about such political theater.

When reporters aren't maintaining their vigil, they're going to half a dozen or more press conferences given every day by politicians of every shade. That's a problem, because traffic has become a nightmare. Back at the office, the floors are flooded with fax messages, some from news services, others from newly hatched neo-Communist Parties.

Switch on the television, though, and you might as well be back in Communist times. The news broadcasters are Yeltsin loyalists and their stories are twisted in his favor, albeit in a more user-friendly way than in Communist days. The Tass news service, once all-powerful, is not nearly as valuable a source of disinformation any more because it is strapped for money. The Interfax wire is usually much better.

So it goes covering the former Soviet Union. To date, three people have died in clashes during the current political crisis for perspective's sake. Probably double that number die violently every week in the gangland hits now plaguing Moscow. Thankfully, Western reporters are now spared KGB surveillance and travel restrictions. But they never had to be much concerned for their physical safety.

They do today. In just one week in war-torn Georgia, three jet liners were

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Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev (l) in Moscow's Pushkin Square. Five days after writing for this issue, Peter Galuszka was outside the "White House" when tanks opened fire on the anti-Yeltsin forces.

Program...

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with a new Presidential election, "foreign issues played zero role."

"In the year 1992," Gwertzman explained, "there was a feeling that 'The Cold War is over. We've celebrated that, hurrah. Now let's get around to our domestic problems.'"

But, he said, foreign news is "still the flagship of my newspaper," although *The Times* has found it necessary "to urge reporters, wherever they are, to really think in somewhat different terms" because of the changing state of international affairs.

"Reporters have to become better educated," he said. "Virtually every correspondent now has to become more economically literate. You have to be at least familiar and again literate on ecology issues, scientific questions, anything that really makes a society tick."

Muller agreed, asserting that we need to redefine a "good story." "Foreign news need not be dull. Foreign news, therefore, need not always be about institutions, about

governments rising and falling, about the common market, about the OECD. It should be about societies. It should be about people."

Richard Roth acted as a last-minute substitute for CNN Executive Vice President Ed Turner, who was called to Atlanta after Boris Yeltsin ousted the Soviet parliament. Roth's broad-

We need to redefine a "good story."

casting expertise, paired with a quick wit, provided levity to the event. Without using the word "foreign" which, he joked, all CNN employees had been forbidden to do, he assured all present that the network was covering the globe, and that CNN was now recognized as the premier news source in other countries.

That wasn't always the case, however. In CNN's early years, reporters had trouble getting into places because no one had heard of it. In 1992, however, while covering the unification,

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Should You Read a Slovenian Newspaper?

Correspondent calls for more awareness in U.S. of overseas press

BY MITJA MERSOL

Not so long ago the OPC organized a highly intellectual debate in New York's Hyatt Hotel with editors and journalists of *Time* magazine, *The New York Times* and CNN. The subject was how the U.S. media is covering world affairs and is there a crisis in covering foreign affairs. It was a lively and stimulating discussion. It uncovered not only "technical and logistical problems" of the present day reporting on international affairs, but also philosophy, and the way in which American editors are treating this segment of

paper which has a bit more than 100,000 copies of daily circulation (five overnight "zoning" editions). One hundred thousand is a relative figure: In comparison with Asahi Shimbun it means nothing. But if we know that Slovenia (one of the former Yugoslavian republics) has a population of only 2 million, the circulation certainly is not meaningless. Is there any newspaper in Queens with such a circulation? And to boast further: How many American newspapers of this, or larger size, have correspondents abroad? My newspaper has eight (New York, Bonn, Brussels, Moscow, Paris, Vienna, Rome, Cairo) plus correspondents in former Yugoslav republics (which are now also considered foreign countries), and permanent stringers in Beijing and London. It costs a lot, but it gives my paper a good reputation and sales. Foreign news without foreign correspondents is just "wire news."

Slovenia—which achieved its independence and statehood in 1991, 10 days after the war with the Yugoslav Army—had been under the Hapsburg rule for centuries, but nevertheless retained her Slovenian language and culture. The first book in Slovenian was printed in 1551. The first newspaper in the Slovenian language was published in the 18th century—the same century that the first American paper, *Publick Occurrences*, was launched—and was called *Ljubljanske Novice* (Ljubljana being the capital of Slovenia).

Today, Slovenia has lively print and broadcast media, with both public and private owners. There are five major dailies, some of which are affiliated with political parties and some, like mine, are independent. There are seven major regional newspapers. Weekly,

by-weekly and monthly newspapers and magazines are numerous (about 35 weekly, and about 70 by-weekly and monthly publications). There are about 20 local radio stations, and one national radio station with three regular programs; one national (public) TV station and two commercial TV stations.

The media in Slovenia in general enjoys all constitutional liberties and rights. This applies especially to the print media, while the broadcast media is regulated by a supervisory board appointed by the State Parliament. There is also a controversial Article 5 election

There are five major dailies in Slovenia, which has a population of only 2 million.

law specifying that the RTV media must offer free space and time to political parties for party use, a regulation bitterly disputed by journalists who claim that such a regulation interferes with the media's commercial and editorial independence. But, in general, Slovenian journalists are working in normal conditions, in spite of the fact that just a couple of hundred miles away, in Bosnia and Croatia, the war is still going on, and journalists, domestic and foreign alike, are being killed on a daily basis.

Mitja Mersol, who has been a journalist nearly 30 years, has reported for Delo from England and West Africa, and for the last four years, from the U.S. The author of three books, he also is head of the Foreign Press Association.

Wire service still reports from 60 countries

UPI Changes its Dimensions

BY FRED FERGUSON

United Press International is being restructured—with a seventh of its one-time staff—to be a global information service packaging news and information for niche markets, according to its new leaders.

Still, some of the old hands remain, particularly overseas, as it is rebuilt to use an electronic satellite system to deliver myriad information products.

"UPI is an enormously valuable trademark," said Jean Abinader, a member of the executive management committee in charge of the reorganization. But he explained it will no

Today, the entire UPI staff is estimated at 300—and is likely to stay that way.

longer be a news service "of record," which he said is "too labor intensive." Instead, it will combine news and information services.

In the late '60s and early '70s, UPI had some 2,000 employees in 129 bureaus, 900 of them news personnel. Today, the entire staff is an estimated 300, Abinader says, with plans to keep it that way.

L. Brewster Jackson, with a background in electronic information services (a good deal of it with Reuters), was named chief executive officer in July, declaring, "UPI now has the vision and resources to create a major client-focused communications and information company for the 21st century and beyond."

Buy-outs of long-time employees who chose to leave and a new round

of bureau closings left six regional news centers in the United States. There are about 20 bureaus internationally, according to Steve Geiman, executive editor based in Washington. There are 30 bureaus worldwide, said Abinader.

The new management plan comes after lengthy studies by the new owners, an investment group of Middle East businessmen, some from oil-rich countries. The primary institutional investor is the Middle East Broadcasting Center, headquartered in London.

A broadcast service in Arabic is operated out of London. One of the first new products will be a World Energy Service with content from a network of stringers and freelancers. Abinader said others will include electronic newsletters. A satellite system is to be in place in early '94 for a global delivery capability.

"We'll be announcing about one new product each month from now on," said Abinader.

Where will the news come from? Alliances, joint ventures, stringer and freelancer networks as well as a hardcore news staff, he said.

UPI veterans still in place include Helen Thomas at the White House; Herman Beals, Latin American editor; Bob Martin, foreign editor, Ruth Youngblood in Tokyo, Charles Ridley, Rome; Pat Koza, Warsaw; Paul Anderson, Asia editor in Hong Kong and others in the remaining domestic "news centers"—Washington, New York, Miami, Chicago, Los Angeles and Dallas. Antonio Praxedes is the new Latin American general manager operating from Brasilia and Rio. Canada general

manager is Bill Parkinson in Toronto. New general managers are to be announced in Europe and Asia.

Although now essentially a broadcast service in the U.S., Abinader aid UPI will have state reports in all states shortly and "still reports from about 60 countries."

Fred Ferguson worked for UPI 27 years before leaving in 1982. An OPC member for 11 years, he is coordinator of the feature news service for P.R. Newswire.

Bright Lights Of Broadway Shine on OPC

BY RENÉE KELLER

The Overseas Press Club has made it to the Broadway stage. Wendy Wasserstein, the award-winning playwright, gave the OPC top billing by mentioning the club in her latest play, *The Sisters Rosensweig*.

Wasserstein—who has already won a Pulitzer prize and a Tony award for her previous play, *The Heidi Chronicles*—mentions the club in the first scene of the first act. The lead character, Sara, says to Pfeni, the youngest of the three sisters and a writer: "I was just reading a very good piece in the *Financial Times* about the Russian coup by that friend of yours who won the Overseas Press Club Award this year. Isn't it time you won that?"